



# ***THE HAAS REPORT***

***THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2011***

**Dear neighbor,**

I hope that the summer has treated you well so far. It's been an interesting time on the County Board. In the past month, we have worked on redistricting and extending benefits to registered domestic partners of Milwaukee County employees. While the Board does not meet during the month of August, I will be using the time to help my constituents, and to pursue several legislative projects. I strive to improve how the county operates, and my legislation will provide a means to do that.

## **County Board Committees**

- Vice-Chair, Parks, Energy, & Environment
- Transportation, Public Works & Transit
- Personnel

## **Community Memberships**

- Bay View Neighborhood Association
- Bay View Garden and Yard Society
- Hide House Community Garden
- South Side Business Club
- Victory Garden Initiative
- Humboldt Park Watch
- South Shore Park Watch
- Garden District Neighborhood Association
- Holler Park Neighborhood Association
- Town of Lake Neighborhood Association

## **In this issue you'll find:**

### **Legislative Update**

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### **County Board Approves Domestic Partner Benefits**

### **Supporting the Aerotropolis Act of 2011**

### **County Board Approves Cabinet Appointments**

### **Jason in the Community**

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### **Looking Ahead: Budget Listening Session and Coffee**

### **The New Wilson Park Neighborhood Association**

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### **Lake Parkway/Highway 794 Intersection Improvement**

Milwaukee County Supervisor Jason Haas  
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
Phone: (414) 278 - 4252 Fax: (414) 223 - 1380  
E-mail: [Jason.haas@milwcnty.com](mailto:Jason.haas@milwcnty.com)  
Website: [milwaukee.gov/haas](http://milwaukee.gov/haas)

The month of July is customarily a busy one for the County Board, and this month proved no different. We did a lot of big things that I think will help make the county work and run better.

## **Loopholes Closed! Sick Leave & Vacation Adjustments Made**

The County Board took action to close the loopholes that a returning employee took advantage of this year to gain a larger than normal payout for one month's work. At the July 28 meeting, the County Board approved a resolution that requires returning employees—people who previously worked for the county—to "re-earn" their sick time and vacation time. The county still needs a short-term disability policy, which Supervisor Haas plans to support in the coming months. The county's new policy is much fairer to the taxpayers, and will prevent future abuse in this area. Supervisor Haas has made it a priority to slam the door on that exploitation of taxpayer dollars, and is proud to have accomplished it.

## **County Board Approves Domestic Partner Benefits**

My colleague Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic has written an excellent summary of our work on domestic partner benefits. Her editorial is printed below:

At our last County Board Meeting, 13 County Supervisors voted to approve legislation I authored extending benefits to registered Domestic Partners of Milwaukee County employees. This is a pro-business move, and we're taking a page out of the book of some of the largest and most successful private-sector employers in Milwaukee. They use this tool to recruit the most talented employees in the marketplace, while also promoting equality and fairness throughout the workforce.

At a time when a number of county employees are retiring, we have a number of vacancies in key positions. From department head positions to entry-level positions, this benefit model can help ensure that Milwaukee County employs the best people possible.

Earlier this month, we announced our initiative at Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center. With more than 31,000 local employees, Aurora Health Care is the largest private-sector employer in Wisconsin and has offered domestic partnership benefits to employees since 2005.

In that time, Aurora has been a national health care leader, attracting some of the most talented health professionals in the world.

A recent survey from Fuel Milwaukee of MMAC found that 52% of job seekers were more likely to accept a job offer if they knew that an employer offered domestic partnership benefits. Six of the ten Fortune 500 employers in the Milwaukee area offer similar benefits, including Johnson Controls, Kohl's, Northwestern Mutual and Rockwell Automation.

The State of Wisconsin, City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Public Schools already provide domestic partnership health benefits for their employees. One percent of the City of Milwaukee workforce has registered for this benefit, and Milwaukee County is expecting similar results. According to the human resources firm Hewitt Associates, adding domestic partners to health benefits plans placed employers "no more at risk than when adding spouses" and reported an average cost increase of less than 1% to employers. A one percent increase in Milwaukee County would cost about \$700,000. It's a fair price to pay for equal rights.

The proposed change would take effect in 2012 for same and opposite-sex domestic partners (who are certified via state requirements) and their dependents. County Executive Chris Abele has signaled that he will sign it. This is about treating employees fairly and making civil rights gains in Milwaukee County. We are one of the last local governments not already offering this tool. The time for equality, justice and fairness is now, and the time to institute it is now. — Supervisor Dimitrijevic

## Supporting the Aerotropolis Act of 2011

Supervisor Haas co-sponsored a resolution supporting the federal "Aerotropolis Act of 2011" with Supervisors Pat Jursik and Dimitrijevic. The resolution passed 18-1. An "aerotropolis" is a region that is centered around an airport, which in our case is General Mitchell International Airport. The federal act would establish a grant program that would provide funding assistance for the improvement of the area's highways, bridges, and public transportation systems. Developing a thriving aerotropolis around Mitchell International will draw companies and jobs to the Milwaukee region. Many people have begun to come up from the Chicago region and all over the state every day just to fly out of our great publicly-owned airport. Supervisor Haas is proud to work with the Gateway to Milwaukee to make the Aerotropolis a reality here in Milwaukee County.

## County Board Approves Cabinet Appointments

At the County Board's July 28 meeting, the board confirmed a number of key appointments made by County Executive Chris Abele. They were:

- Corporation Counsel: Kimberly Walker
- Economic Development Director: Brian Taffora
- Child Support Enforcement Director: Jim Sullivan
- Family Care Director: Maria Ledger

"I find it very encouraging that County Executive Abele has brought these candidates to the County Board for approval. I was able to meet with many of them prior to the confirmation, and I am confident that they will serve us with the highest efficiency and devotion to quality," Supervisor Haas stated.

## Jason in the Community

### "Dunk the Supervisor!"

Supervisor Haas was the "target of honor" for the dunk tank at the recent Garden District Family Festival. He was indeed dunked about a dozen times over two days.

#### Before:



#### After:



Supervisor Haas plans to be at the 2012 Garden District Family Festival. So if you missed your chance to dunk him this year, practice your swing for next year!



## Citizens Assist Police in Arrest at Garden District Family

From <http://milwaukeecrime.blogspot.com/2011/08/citizens-assist-police-in-arrest-at.html> :

Neighbors stopping in at the Garden District's family festival on 5th & Layton received a bonus demonstration from MPD Officer Carlos Felix who was there with McGruff and members from the Sheriffs Department. They were there showing off equipment for the kids.

Two neighbors observed a male in his twenties walking down 5th Street trying car door handles as he walked by vehicles. As they came onto the festival grounds, they informed Officer Felix of this behavior, who immediately went out to observe the suspect still trying door handles and checking out residences. Springing into action, he apprehended the suspect who also turned over a camera he said he had just found. The suspect ended up being transported through the festival grounds on the way to the Police Station. If you were at the festival and are missing a camera please call District 6. The kids saw a live lesson on what happens when people make poor choices, and now the neighborhood has one less criminal walking around. A special thanks to the alert neighbors that got involved, Officer Felix for his quick reflexes and fine Police work, and all the great volunteers that worked the festival.

## The New Wilson Park Neighborhood Association

Supervisor Haas is pleased to welcome Wilson Park's Surrounding Neighborhood Association to the 14<sup>th</sup> District. Getting involved in your Neighborhood Association is a great way to meet some friendly people down the block as well as plan some great activities for the community.

The first meeting will be Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at Los Burritos Taputios at 8:00pm.

If you'd like more information on this group, feel free to check out their website: <http://www.wilsonpark.info>, or email John at: [mrjohnnymarsz@gmail.com](mailto:mrjohnnymarsz@gmail.com).



*Jason speaking to the Airport Gardens Neighborhood Association*

## Looking Ahead: Budget Listening Session and Coffee

Supervisor Haas will hold a county budget listening session and town hall meeting at the Wilson Park Senior Center on Tuesday October 25 from 5:30 to 7:30PM. This will come after County Executive Abele presents his 2012 Recommended Budget to the Milwaukee County Board on September 29, 2011.

You will have more opportunities to meet with Supervisor Haas in the community. More dates for "Coffee With Constituents" in the late summer and fall months will be announced soon.

## Get in Touch with Me

I want to hear what you think about the issues that are before us. Please call me at (414) 278-4252, or email me at [jason.haas@milwcnty.com](mailto:jason.haas@milwcnty.com).

Calls from the County Courthouse come up as "BLOCKED" on caller ID, so if you are expecting to hear from me, I might be that blocked call.

I look forward to working with you as I represent you on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. Stay in touch, and I'll see you soon.

# Lake Parkway/Highway 794 Intersection Improvement

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is continuing construction on the I-94 N-S Freeway, Project in Milwaukee Co. Beginning Fall 2011, I-94 N-S at the Mitchell Interchange, will restrict I-43/94 access to/from the Airport Spur. Highway 794 has been identified as an alternate route for Airport traffic to/from Downtown Milwaukee.

In August, WisDOT will be making revisions to the Highway 794 intersection at Oklahoma Ave to improve intersection operations. Work at this intersection will require some overnight closures on the roadway from Oklahoma Ave to Highway 794. Work is expected to be completed in September.

*Please note the following changes in traffic patterns when the improvements are complete:*

- Traffic turning from Oklahoma Ave to Highway 794 northbound toward downtown will be a free flow right turn.
- Traffic turning from Oklahoma Ave to Highway 794 southbound toward the Airport will have a new merging alignment going onto Highway 794.
- Signal hardware, detection and communication improvements will also be completed.
- Traffic on Highway 794 southbound at Oklahoma Ave will be shifted to the right and become a free flow movement.
- Speed limits on Highway 794 will remain 40 mph during construction and will be monitored closely by law enforcement.

The project team appreciates your patience and cooperation during this project.

**Questions:** Visit us on the Web at <http://www.plan94.org> to view the latest project information, sign up for periodic mail and e-mail updates, or leave a comment for the project team, or call the project hotline at (262) 548-8721.

